

Simultaneity - Literature

By James Thompson

1.
Simultaneity is impossible. We exist in an unutterable disorder of time-scales, at an inescapable distance from each other.
2.
Simultaneity exists only beyond the human, it is something that we can't observe or create.
3.
The Simultaneist poem teaches a sense of the merrygoround of all things; while Herr Schulze reads his paper, the Balkan Express crosses the bridge at Nish, a pig squeals in Butcher Nuttke's cellar.
4.
An illusion while it remains an illusion has a value precisely equivalent to reality.
5.
And what I here find of most importance is, that I discover in my mind innumerable ideas of certain objects, which cannot be esteemed pure negations, although perhaps they possess no reality beyond my thought, and which are not framed by me though it may be in my power to think, or not to think them, but possess true and immutable natures of their own.
6.
There are approximately 475 Trillion human heart beats taking place on the face of this planet every minute.
7.
The Golden Notebook naming game-lie in a room and hold every object within that room in your mind, and then expand out and hold all the building within which the room lies, while retaining the objects in the room and then continue and hold onto the street, the town, the country, the
13.
Space seems to be either tamer or more inoffensive than time; we're forever meeting people who have watches, very seldom people who have compasses.
14.
With one quick look, you and I perceive three wineglasses on the table; Funes perceived every grape that had been pressed into the wine and all the stalks and tendrils of its vineyard. He knew the form of the clouds in the southern sky on the morning of April 30, 1882, and he could compare them in his memory with the veins in the marbled binding of a book he had seen only once or with the feathers of spray lifted by an oar on the Rio Negro on the eve of the Battle of Quebracho.
15.
Ivan, Malina, und Ich
16.
Je partirai à 20 h. 27
Six glaces s'y dévisagent toujours
Je crois que nous allons nous embrouiller encore davantage
Cher monsieur
Vous êtes un mec à la mie de pain
17.
- Now who do you know? This is Joan who was Pope in the ninth century, and Isabella Bird, the Victorian traveller, and Lady Nijo from Japan, Emperor's concubine and Buddhist nun, thirteenth century, nearer your own time, and Gret who was painted by Brueghel. Griselda's in Boccaccio and Petrarch and Chaucer because of her extraordinary marriage. I'd like profiteroles because they're disgusting.

continent, the planet, until you watch the sunlit ball turning and rolling beneath you. Then try and imagine the life living in a single drop of water.

8.
'This beer isn't a beer. But the fact that this cigar isn't a cigar either makes up for that. If the beer weren't a beer, but the cigar were a cigar, then things would be all wrong'

9.
The general sat on his camp bed. He was weary, and hot. He opened the front of his shirt and placed the cool barrel of his pistol against the iodine circle that he had got his personal surgeon to paint there earlier in the day. He pulled the trigger. If I told you that at that exact moment, hundreds of miles away, his mother had opened a pan of milk that was refusing to boil and found that the milk had been replaced with worms, would you believe me?

10.
How unlikely it is that I've come to this point. How easily I could be he, and he could be me.

11.
'This style of writing of women'
'Simultaneity is its proper aspect- a property that is never fixed in the possible identity-to-self of some form or other. It is always fluid, without neglecting the characteristics of fluids that are difficult to idealize: those rubbings between two infinitely near neighbours that create a dynamic.'

18.
It is with some regret that I think that somewhere else there is someone who is better than I am, someone who made the decisions that I regret and is where I could be. If I sink too deeply into torpor at this point I simply switch my focus to the bad one, the one who got everything wrong.

19.
It's a good thing that we don't live in real time! What would we be in 'real' time? We would be identified at each moment exactly with ourselves. A torment equivalent to that of eternal daylight- a kind of epilepsy of presence, epilepsy of identity. Autism, madness.

20.
Argentinean Librarian
Theoretical Physics

21.
Dr Awkward

22.
The audience sitting in the amphitheatre. The clubfoot. Pity and fear; disgust and sympathy. Alex and the Ninth. Guilt... it may be our door upon which he next comes knocking?

23.
I was once told by a near relative of mine, that having in her childhood fallen into a river, and being on the very verge of death, but for the critical assistance that reached her, she saw in a moment her whole life, in its minutest incidents, arrayed before her simultaneously as in an mirror; and she

12.

Unlike Newton and Schopenhauer your ancestor did not believe in a uniform and absolute time; he believed in an infinite series of times, a growing, dizzying web of divergent, convergent, and parallel times. That fabric of times that approach one another, fork, are snipped off, or are simply unknown for centuries, contains all possibilities. In most of those times, we do not exist; in some, you exist but I do not; in others, I do and you do not; in others still, we both do.

had a faculty developed as suddenly for comprehending the whole and every part.

24.

It is with similarly bitter sweet pain that I consider that I may very well be my own apotheosis. Sweet to think that I, of my many selves, have done so well; bitter that my resources were so unquestionably limited.

25.

He is as handsome as the retractility of the claws in birds of prey; or, again, as the unpredictability of muscular movement in sores in the soft part of the posterior cervical region; or, rather, as the perpetual motion rat-trap which is always reset by the trapped animal and which can go on catching rodents indefinitely and works even when hidden under straw; and, above all, as the chance meeting of a sewing machine and an umbrella on a dissection table!

Notes and References

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